

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

January 2, 2014

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O'Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on December 19, 2013 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending January 1, 2014 in the amount of \$ **275,084.90** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of December 19, 2013 –January 1, 2014
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office December 26, 2013

RESOLVED: That the reports as listed are hereby ordered, received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. **AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council in the amount of \$69,346.35 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kasper
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. **PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None**

7. **OTHER ITEMS:**

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to adjust the 2013 General Fund Budget through a transfer of funding from Public Works Street Maintenance to Public Works Snow & Ice Department as per the attached memo. The transfer will not change the total 2013 budget.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
Discussion:

Councilor Dowdle asked if this was a common practice based on prevailing conditions.

Mayor Calnon said it's not uncommon particularly towards the end of the year when the carefully crafted budget is close to the mark and we have an unusual circumstance. What prompted this one, Mike?

Superintendent of Public Works Mike Brodi said this is a salt purchase.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Sunrise Rotary and CVPH to establish a route from the CVPH entrance on Beekman Street, turning right on to Cornelia Street traveling up to the CVPH Cornelia Street entrance for a horse and wagon ride during a Winter Carnival on Saturday, February 1, 2014 from 11am – 3 pm. The Rotary Organization has provided a certificate of insurance.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves two Police Officers to attend “NYSDCJS Property/Evidence Room Management Training” in Kingston, NY from January 20 – 22, 2014. The cost will not exceed \$952 and will be expensed to the Asset Seizure Fund.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kasper
Discussion:

Councilor Dowdle asked during the absence of these officers. Is it overtime that is covering their shift? And if it is would Asset Seizure pay for that?

Mayor Calnon said usually not and no Asset Seizure would not. You raise a good question. For all departments there is a certain amount of regular training and travel that goes on and I would really like to get as much as I can an annual schedule so we can all take a look at it and understand what’s going on. And that would be one of the key questions when would training result in overtime.

Councilor Dowdle some of it’s for certification.

Mayor Calnon said yes a lot of times it is for certification or just good business for the city. But, it’s nice to have a much better perspective of it.

Councilor O’Connell suggested putting in the wording “no overtime incurred.”

Mayor Calnon said or there may circumstances where it would.

Councilor Kelly asked are these two gentleman required to do this training to do their jobs?

Mayor Calnon said I would believe that’s the case, but, I’m not sure we would have to ask the Chief.

Councilor O’Connell said again that could be in the wording.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Kasper asked when the response for the RFP on the marina due?

Mayor Calnon said January 8th. We will have packages to Council electronically as soon as we can. [further discussion with council about how these proposals would be reviewed and the project].

Councilor Kasper said with regard to the restriping of North Margaret. When would it be appropriate to consult with the public and to put together a plan and a resolution for doing that since I think it would be ideal to have that done when everything melts.

Mayor Calnon said I would certainly ask Kevin what kind of lead time he needs.

Councilor Armstrong said wasn't a study commissioned that GP offered to pay for?

Councilor Kasper said GP offered \$5,000.

Mayor Calnon said but I don't know if it happened and who is supposed to do it.

Councilor Kasper said no it didn't they're just waiting for us. For them the question is where do we go from here? We have a promise from GP to pay \$5,000 towards a feasibility study they've got the work they've done. So the decision really is where do we go from here. Sounds like a good idea, sounds like it wouldn't cost a lot. It looks good, it looks win win, but how do we know that and how do we ascertain that in a way that doesn't drag this out for a long time.

Mayor Calnon said would you then under new business tonight be offering a resolution to accept Georgia Pacific's offer?

Councilor Kasper said I would love to offer.

Councilor Dowdle said was the offer solely from GP?

Councilor Kasper said yes.

Councilor Armstrong said and that's the estimated cost of the feasibility study?

Councilor Kasper said yes.

Councilor Kasper made a motion that:

The Common Council accepts the offer of payment for a feasibility study for restriping of North Margaret Street.

Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Discussion:

Councilor Dowdle said if this gets approved then what happens we call up GP?

Mayor Calnon said yes.

Mayor Calnon said actually my understanding is that I'm not sure who is actually going to do the study. But I think they specified.

Councilor Kasper said I'd happily talk with whomever is necessary in order to alert them to the fact that we accept the offer of the money for the feasibility study.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

Councilor O'Connell said there was some discussion about there used to be a second public comment session for speaking and it got taken away.

Mayor Calnon said it was restored in our Organizational meeting tonight.

Councilor Kretser wanted to talk about the redesign of the city website. I think there is some potential for revenue if we craft it properly. A need for a community calendar and possibly create a one stop for everybody to go to the City of Plattsburgh and that would be a funnel for all the community events and then we could sell advertising on the website.

Mayor Calnon said there's one caveat to that. Part of getting the "gov" designation for our website is that we won't do that. [further discussed other options and the website]

Councilor Kretser said this is the first impression of our city.

Councilor Kelly said he wanted to mention to his fellow councilors is in his previous tenure in this position that one of the things I found really helpful was; new business, resolutions for initial consideration and then the vote. So that means you have 3 weeks to flesh things out the way you want them to be. You have plenty of time for the public to respond and react to the resolution for initial consideration and then you have the actual vote. And you have the opportunity for even more public input there. I found that sequence of events to be really helpful.

Councilor O'Connell said knowing how our constituents feel. So as we signed up to vote and represent we can represent them where it's not just dropped on and voted.

Councilor Kretser said I drive by the huge blank wall on the building where the Greek restaurant is. I know that Plattsburgh Renewal project is working on possibly doing some kind of mural or artistic rendering possibly historic. I'm just thinking of how we can make money. What are the stipulations for those gigantic digital billboards in the City or downtown? Is there any kind of law?

Mayor Calnon said we have a law. The law was overturned in general for really more technical reasons then exact we probably better review it and talk to John Clute about what revisions are necessary to overcome the judge's decision.

Councilor Kretser said because we could just put a big beautiful digital sign there and sell tons of advertising for downtown businesses, places where the city could make announcements and the Strand could offer event. We could pay rent to the building owner for having it affixed there.

Councilor O'Connell said I want to know if we could just reemphasize to all Department Heads that they should show up to the meetings. Because I have questions for some of them and they're not here. I thought I read somewhere that it is required for Department Heads to attend the Council meetings.

Mayor Calnon said we're going to revisit all that when we meet with them.

Councilor Kelly said if we need to contact the department heads should we also contact you or contact you first. What do you prefer?

Mayor Calnon said if you make an email contact you "cc" me. You don't have to call me up and say I am going to talk to Mike Brodi or Steve Peters. As long as we're not invading their space or taking up too much of their time it's pretty relaxed. I don't want to go back to having Administrative Contact Requests.

Councilor Dowdle asked if they contact Corporation Counsel John Clute are we billed.

[The Mayor and Council further discussed the Corporation Counsel].

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle
Roll call Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser
(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:02pm